

PICK IT UP!

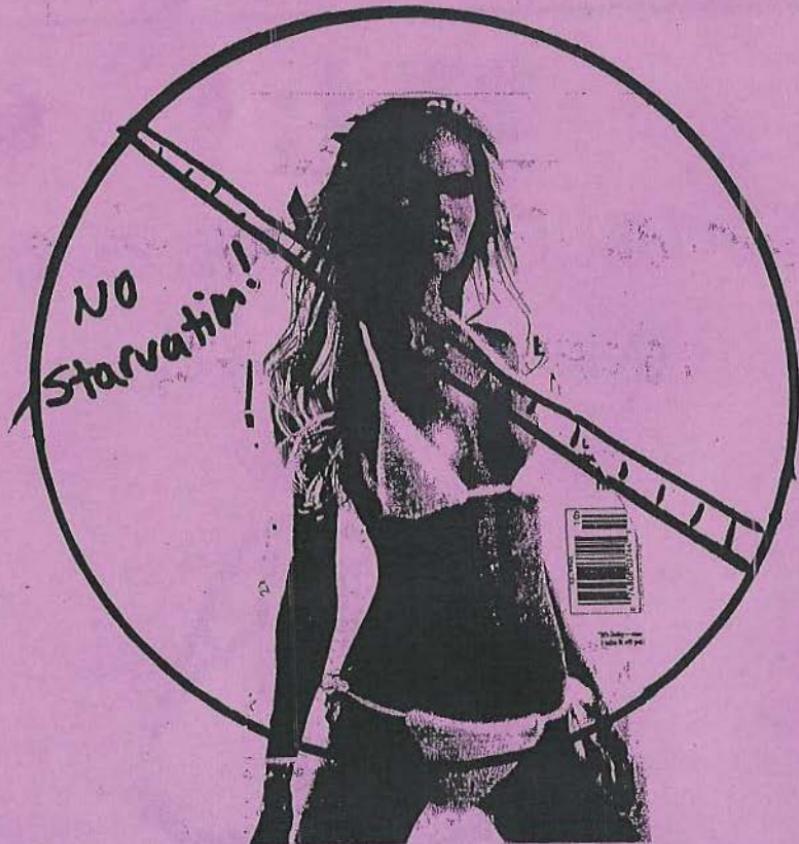
FATTY FATTY

2X4;

SOCIAL COMMENTARY BY A
QUEER FAT CHICK.



Disclaimer: I'll try my best not to fill this space with a bunch of self-important and self-absorbed bullshit but it's hard sometimes. I really wanted to put in more poetry but I feel like a lot of my poetry is more self-indulgent and not as political or impacting as my ranting. The only way to connect with people is to put your thoughts out there, whether you are loved or hated. It's all I can do to keep from exploding right now with our inbred president leading us into a war based on greed, oil and ego. It's all about whose dick is the biggest right now. So until our world stops being as fucked up as it is, I'll do what I can, even if it just means leaking my thoughts.



Advertising:

The irony that exists between Queers and advertising, People of Color and advertising, Fatties (like me) and advertising etc. etc. etc. is a testimony of the media's power over us as Americans. Look at it this way, we have Queer magazines, special interest publications, we have some nice forward thinking rags like Curve, Bust, Bitch, On Our Backs, Mode, Girlfriends. The tone of this segment is decidedly female focused but bear with me. Anyway, we think it's a huge victory to have information available to us, and it is. There was a time not so long ago when there was nothing at all for us. It's a victory that more people can be reached and network, even in rural, Podunk Arkansas.

However, there is a whole different situation that arises. All magazines require advertising. In my media Literacy text it's said that about 65% of magazine space goes to advertising. This means companies advertise with the magazine and this gets our attention as Queers or Fatties or People of Color. Wow! Do these companies actually care about us? These giant corporate entities must really care about us marginal groups if they are paying their hard earned cash to advertise in our magazines, right? **WRONG!**

These corporations simply want our money. They don't care about us as a group or on the whole. Supply and demand has shown that we have some money and are consumers like the rest of the world and it would be wise for them to try and reach us. So we end up with a double-edged sword. We have the attention of the companies and their "support" but we are being sucked in and targeted from that same rotten perspective as all the other "mainstream" consumers out there.

To illustrate this point simply, just look at the amount of McDonald's commercials targeted towards African Americans! Look at who is advertising during Will and Grace and pay attention to the slants that some advertisers take during "queer time" or watch Black Entertainment Television and watch how "specialized" the ads are towards the audience. It's up to us to think critically about how corporations that have marginalized, ignored and disregarded "special interest" groups for decades, suddenly became aware of the need to notice us. They simply want our money. Don't buy into it.

Useless Rhymes

Industrial Nation

Fat Discrimination

Fast Food Libation

American Intoxication

Goodbye Reality

Hello Insanity

Get Your Hands Offa Me

Sea to Shining Sea

Pregnant Capitalism

Dirty Psychoanalism

Denial Stupidism

Fuck You Bushism

TV Dinners

Queer Sinners

AnorexiThinners

Media Winners

Blame Blame

Shame Shame

Fame Fame

Game Game

Losing Goal

Monetary Hole

Everyone's Role

Goodbye Soul

Ruling With Dick

Making Me Sick

Tearing Down Brick

Something Will Click

Gender Confine

Useless Whine

Gimme A Sign

Pretend It's Fine

outta My Bedroom

Gimme Some Headroom

Under Rug With Broom

Shiny Cars, Vroom Vroom!

Who Am I?
Minus Lie
Rather Die
Brain Fry

Borrowed Time
Hopeless Grime
Acting Mime
Useless Rhyme

It's fascinating how few people are paying attention.

When you start becoming savvy about the media and understanding all of the lies you are told regarding politics, human rights violations, policies, laws, the media, institutionalized racism, sexism, heterosexism, discrimination, the environment, gender roles, and everything the mainstream seems to report on, you stop believing the talking heads.

The media lies. The media lies. The media lies.

Chapter 1

Let's go back to the beginning.

If you listened to them you would care about what your body looks like, color, shape, weight, ability and gender. They started lying to you about who you were before you were even born and when you came out screaming and shaking like an angry leaf in the wind, they didn't care. They dressed you in blue or pink and told you how to dress, how to eat, where to go, who to love, who to hate and what to believe.

Chapter 2

They taught you to pray. They lied. They all lied.

Now it's up to us to investigate, think critically, look at all sides of the box, inside and out. Challenge the canon. Face their guns. Tell them to go away.

Chapter 3

CONSUME CONSUME CONSUME

They lied to you before you were born and there is danger in believing them now. If you do, you will believe that the relationship between you and FOOD and INANIMATE things are more important than people.

Rant

If someone calls me fat, I don't have a comeback. I simply don't respond. It's not *me* they are calling fat. They are simply pointing out how cruel, ridiculous and insecure *they* are. Calling someone fat is rhetorical like calling a woman a bitch if she's loud or strong or simply exists. It's a weak defense, bred out of stupidity, lack of defense and fear. It's not really about me.

People like Beth Ditto of The Gossip (simply because she's a hot fat woman), Marilyn Wann, Nomy Lamm, Camryn Manheim, and of course my friend Dexter, have to be thanked for coming forward and addressing the prejudice and lack of human respect associated with size discrimination. It's not about a bunch of fat people crying on television because airline seatbelts are too small (which they are); it's about equality, an unrealistic beauty standard and common sense.

Human dignity is at stake. For chrissake, the media calls Halle Berry fat, is there no end to it? They talk about how beautiful people like Queen Latifah, Missy Elliott, and Catherine Zeta Jones are "beautiful at any size" but wouldn't they just be lovely as waifs? Well, we've already lost some of our favorite chubby women to the Hollywood obsession with weight (my spin on it). Wasn't Jennifer Connelly much hotter as a curvy girl in Labyrinth than as a junkie in Requiem for a Dream? Wasn't Christina Ricci hot shit in 200 Cigarettes compared to her now skinny body and HUGE head? Ally Sheedy won my heart in Breakfast club as a cute normal sized woman and then she was a junkie waif in High Art. Missy Elliott lost weight for health reasons and I support that but it stands that she is drop-dead gorgeous at any size. Roseanne Barr was never hot but I don't support losing weight and surgery just for image.

People are honestly treated like sub-humans just for being fat. Why doesn't anyone get that it's the same thing as marginalizing people of color for being a different hue? There is a dangerous, impossible beauty standard in this country. It is endangering and marginalizing people. Cosmetic signifiers,

empty of content and value, are the standards we use to determine a person's worth in America. It's interesting how the stereotypes are similar for minorities and fat people. It is assumed they are lazy, stupid and inferior.

This is not to say that size discrimination affects only women of size either. This is not assuming that the very thin don't also get talked about, stared at and made fun of for being very thin. This is also not commentary designed to compare being enslaved and dehumanized because of the color of your skin is the same as suffering size discrimination.

I am saying though, that being fat in America is something I have to wake up and face every single day. I have had to deal with torture at the mouths of schoolmates, cruel remarks and discrimination because I've got a big belly. Doesn't make a lick of sense, does it?

Doctors and health care providers give false information about fat and talk about the risks of heart disease without addressing the true causes. They feign concern and pressure us to lose weight because they think we should, not because being thin equals being healthy. You don't get heart disease from being fat; you get it from being unhealthy, eating the wrong foods, genetics and a variety of other factors. Demand respect.

We are so trained in this society by the imposed and enforced dichotomy of fat vs. thin that we can't even face ourselves in the mirror. I am confronted with images of the thin, white, young beauty standard everywhere, it has infiltrated my life. We are shown women "indulging" in sinful snacks and then bombarded with diet commercials. One lotion brand tells us to "Love your body" as it has a thin, white, sexy, tanned leg waving sexually in the air at us. We aren't told by the sixty billion dollar-a-year industry that 90%-95% of all diets fail (an actual statistic!).

We have watched our mothers, grandmothers, aunts, friends and strangers suffer the grueling effects of being fat. We have learned to think we are NEVER THIN ENOUGH. We have learned that losing five more pounds will us happy and beautiful. We rise from the ashes, embrace our bodies and then crash back into the abyss of fat shame.

It's no wonder that every woman in America Thinks About ^{Every single piece of} Food She Puts in her Face .

Retrofitted ambulance
will help medical staff
handle extremely obese

The vehicle, equipped to lift and carry a half-ton, is designed to protect patients and medical personnel

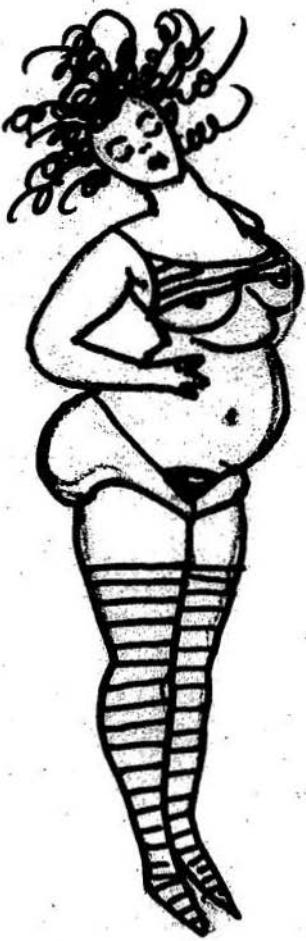
By PATRICK O'NEILL
THE OREGONIAN

American Medical Response has developed a supersized ambulance in response to a growing obesity epidemic.

The Portland company's retrofitted ambulance, which can carry a patient weighing up to half a ton, went into service in Portland this week. Called a "bariatric unit," it has a larger than normal patient compartment with ramps and a winch.

The new ambulance reflects the challenges that increasingly heavy patients pose to medical personnel. Hospitals are investing in stout new hoists to lift obese patients in and out of bed. And Kaiser Permanente is trying to make its Sunnyside Medical

more welcoming to the extra
"emergency med" . . . with

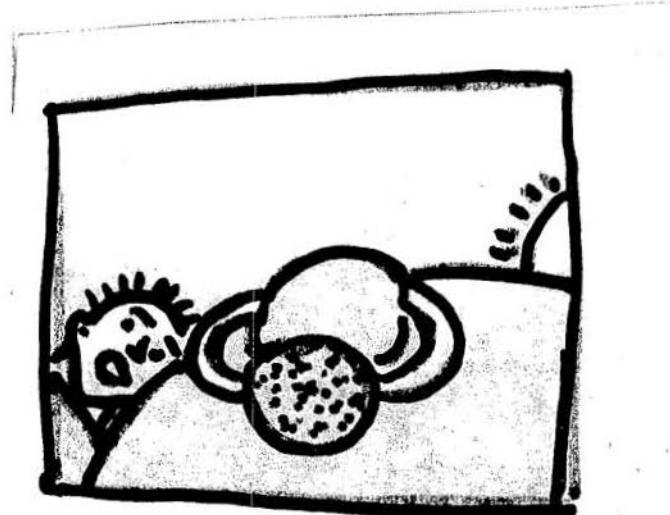


Fatties make
more ♥
))Luscious((
Lovers

No more! The lies being told in America about us fatties do not apply! They are lies! Do you believe the KKK's white supremacy rhetoric? No? Then why would you believe all the transparent lies that contribute to the beauty myth? They should be recognized for what they are, discrimination akin to racist, sexist, heterosexist, and homophobic rhetoric. That is, to be happy and beautiful, you must be white and thin and young and straight.

Once the wool is taken from your eyes, you'll never be the same. I relearned my body as I learned it the first time as a child. I see Barbie for what she is. I recognize the mixed messages, the shame and the fear that are supposed to motivate me into thinness.

Life is too short. Love yourself.



We are all at individual places with our comfort level and self-awareness. Our bodies, minds and souls often struggle to tune out mainstream rhetoric. This Zine is my first. It's an honest self-exploration, observations about myself. It's painful to try and objectively assess my strengths and weaknesses. I was able to do this on a new level. A lot of my observations and thoughts are based on volumes of information on size acceptance. Thanks to Marilyn Wan and Nomy Lamm for their work with size acceptance. My supporters: Dexter, Rebecca K., LHB, DJ Thornley, Jaye S., Nicole W., Harmony S. and Hilly Dilly.

The lines between individuality and political correctness are different for everyone so sometimes I may appear to be coming from my own perspective. Unapologetically, I am.

Making and Breaking Myself; some contradictions and strengths

Body Image.

I still like oversized sweatshirts sometimes to curl up around my body, the generosity of the fabric makes me feel "thinner." I don't think about my body size when fucking, except how lovely it is, all that flesh and skin.

I love my tits, they're perfect.

My big, round ass is point of obsession for me. It's perfectly shaped and smooth.

I still sit slouched over sometimes to protect my belly and hide it.

I love wearing tight shirts that hug my curves. I don't "feel" like a big person. I just feel hot. People agree.

I don't EVER meet people and wonder if they are thinking about my size.

No one ever says to me anymore, "You have such a pretty face" because I know and project that it's all beautiful. All of it.

I don't wonder if people think I'm fat. I know I am and talk about it as freely as I do being Queer and a Woman.

I never use the word "splurge." I eat what I want, when I want. My mother covered up her self-punishing eating habits by using that word. Sadly, it happened almost every day.

I will never "give up" on my appearance or think I've gotten too fat to wear a certain style.

I change the way I dress every day and look great in everything from overalls to platform heels.

I wear athletic wear without shame.

I don't wonder, EVER, if anyone is watching me eat and thinking about my weight.

I talk about being a fat girl with my friends because we're hot shit. Not because we're ashamed.

I will never have a friend who thinks I'm too fat.

I own fat pants that aren't for anything but fat days.

I still worry sometimes that my body will become disproportionate. Like my wrists will become astronomically fat.

I shop proudly at fat girl stores. I call them that.

I don't get on scales.

People are always saying I've lost weight when I haven't. I tell them I haven't but just feel great.

I don't tell people my weight, I am not a number on a scale, I'm a person.

I tell people my weight if they ask.

I weigh 270 pounds.

I play on the floor with kids.

I can do the splits.

I'm very strong.

I love to hike.

I see through America's lies.

I rock.





please!



Slave
to
diet
no
more!

AMERICA (one of my several)
Denise Renfrou

Because of the way things are, we have shows like
Dating Story
Dating Game
Baby Story
Wedding Story
America is obsessed with normalcy
Whatever that is
America comes in a Happy Meal Box
The name rolls off my tongue
AMERICA
Not what it is supposed to mean
But what it has become
a creative name
for packaging yogurt
so kids will eat it
in lieu of cheeseburgers every once in awhile

Notoriously ignorant
Camera wielding
tourists with no tolerance
Nor understanding of other cultures

What the fuck are we thinking?

Does anyone even look at the scenery anymore?
instead of tossing their garbage
out the windows
and locking their doors

I've been on streets in neighborhoods
with themes, gated communities
make life so much more comfortable
for Happy Meal Families

Their prize is death.

Do they chase their dreams
Because it's what they want

Or because it's what they are told they're supposed to want?

I see naked people wrapped in television
their date stamped on their bag
raising their kids with GAP underwear
in plastic churches

Marriage

Children

Cars

Blockbuster

Products, products everywhere

Bathrooms overflow with 5 billion PRODUCTS

No one's sure how it all began
but how it is that AMERICA has become
the Largest drain on earth
like a teenager in a papoose swaddling America's tit
leaving her no time to replenish

We are too heavy for this earth

Women are obsessed with food,
Anorexia, thin, thinner, thinnest
Plastic faces, liposuctioned thighs
Fat free world
No taste anymore
filling bellies with dead food
filling minds with a slow, leaking, ignorance

How wasted are the days,
spent idly in front of the TV?
What good could ever come of it?

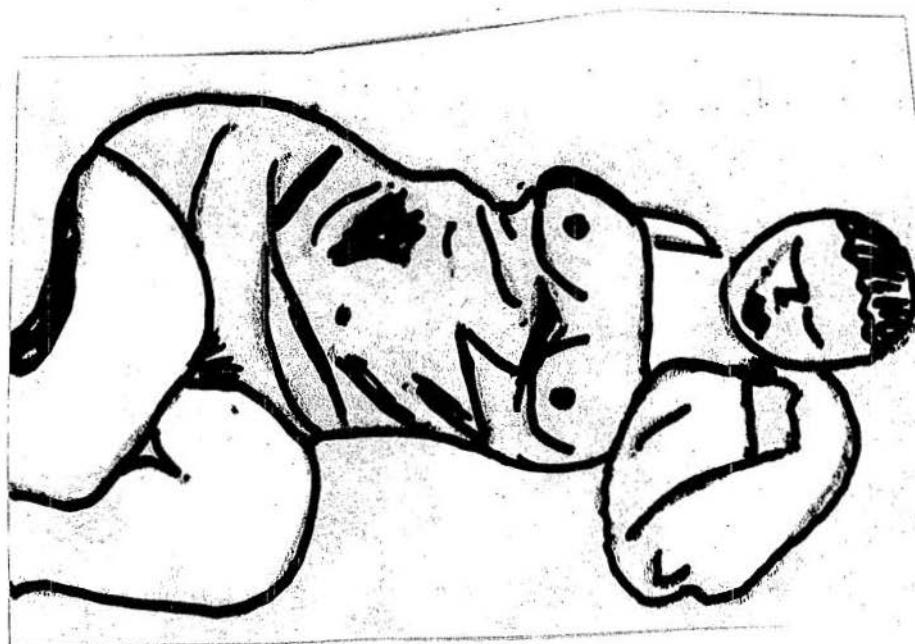
Talk shows,
Game shows;
Soap Operas,
ADVERTISEMENTS EVERYWHERE!

I smash my fists to my ears and
shout at the radio to stop telling me
CONSUME CONSUME CONSUME
Like the gentle clamor of
a trains wheels
steady, like Chinese water torture, slowly
making me insane

deadening me to a point
of not being able to lift a pen
or let a thought breed on it's own
Psychology becomes theory exclusively
Who could possibly think for themselves
with the media waging war on us
Constantly
He think we're poor but have no concept of the state
of the REAL world

Hell fuck you
and I'll take MY AMERICA
elsewhere
Away from an Inbred President
Regurgitated consumerism
dead pan eyes
Everyone thinks they are depressed, unhappy
But it's because we are taught that we
NEED A B C D E F G to be happy

Read a book, America,
Read a book
You are lost and I fear, too far-gone
Flat lined,





I ❤️ FATTIES

Lose the Self-Inflicted Baggage!

Websites of Interest for Fatties

www.size-acceptance.org/

www.naafa.org/

www.jannygirls.com/

www.bugsbest.com/fataccept.htm

www.fatso.com

www.adiosbarbie.com

www.nomylamm.com

Contact me! *DynamicFatGirl@hotmail.com*

Books of Interest/ Size Activism/ The Media

We The Media edited by Don Hazen and Julie Winkour

Approaches to Media Literacy by Art Silverblatt, Jane Ferry and Barbara Finan

Wake Up, I'm Fat! by Camryn Manheim, Rosie O'Donnell

FATISO? Because You Don't Have to Apologize for Your Size by Marla Wann

Big & Beautiful Overcoming Fatphobia -- For Women Size 14 and Up by Ruthanne Olds

Fat History: Bodies and Beauty in the Modern West by Peter N. Stearns

Well Rounded: Eight Simple Steps for Changing Your Life...Not Yourself by Catherine Lippincott

Body Outlaws: Young Women Write About Body Image& Identity edited by Ophira Edut

Deal With It! A Whole New Approach To Your Body, Brain and Life

gURL by Esther Drill, Heather McDonald & Rebecca Odes
The Body Project An Intimate History of American Girls by Joan Jacobs Brumberg

Big Big Love: A Sourcebook on Sex for People of Size and Those Who Love Them by Hanne Blank

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